

REMARKS

Claims 4-13 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 4 and 7 have been amended. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated June 27, 2008.

As to the Merits:

As to the merits of this case, the Examiner now relies on the newly cited reference of Koichi et al. (JP 11-041182)¹ in setting forth the following rejections:

claims 4, 6, 7, 9 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagata (US 3,659,159) in view of Koichi et al. (JP 11-041182);

claims 5, 8, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagata and Koichi et al. in view of Moise et al. (US 6,008,917);

claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagata and Koichi et al. in view of Cornely et al. (US 3,319,080);

claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagata and Koichi et al. in view of Amano et al. (US 5,451,767);

claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagata, Koichi et al. and Moise et al. in view of Cornely et al.; and

¹ Please note that although the Examiner lists Koichi et al. (JP 11068541) in rejecting the claims, the Examiner actually intended to rely on Koichi et al. (JP 11-041182) in rejecting the claims, which was verified during a telephone conference with the Examiner on August 4, 2008.

claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagata, Koichi et al., and Moise et al. in view of Amano et al.

Each of the above rejections is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 4, as amended, now calls *for at least one photodiode for converting an optical signal to an electrical signal, a resistor having one end directly connected to an anode and another end not connected to a cathode of this photodiode.* Independent claim 7, as amended, includes similar features.

That is, each of independent claims 4 and 7 have been amended to include the feature that the other end of the resistor is not connected to a cathode of the photodiode. For example, as shown in Fig. 3 of the present application, while resistor R may be connected to the anode of photodiode 41, the other end of the resistor is connected to voltage V2 and therefore is not connected to the cathode of photodiode 41, since the cathode of photodiode 41 is connected to V1.

In contrast, it is submitted that the resistor 7 is connected to both the anode and the cathode of the photodiode 1 in Fig. 5 of the Koichi reference.

As such, it is respectfully submitted that even if the references can be combined in the manner suggested by the Examiner, such combination would fail to disclose the features set forth in independent claim 4 regarding *a resistor having one end directly connected to an anode and another end not connected to a cathode of this photodiode.*

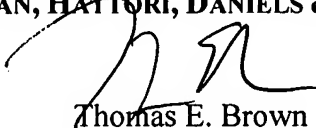
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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